

Salem Free Public Library
Annual Report 2012-2013

So Much More than Books

These are exciting and challenging times for libraries. More than ever, we are the touchstones of our communities, places where people come not only for information, but to connect in our increasingly fragmented world. Libraries have become community centers where people regroup and recharge, where they come to collaborate, find a quiet corner to study, or meet in community groups.

The Salem Free Public Library is embracing new technologies such as digital books. We help our patrons embrace them too. We own 2,696 digital books and 1,401 digital audiobooks with our Bibliomation network. Our patrons can also access:

Learning Express, a digital database filled with practice tests for all ages from elementary schools to college, careers, job skills and U.S. Citizenship.

Universal Class where one can take 500 classes from hobbies to computer skills to entrepreneurial skills to writing classes.

JobNow, a digital one-on-one resume and interview skills. Additionally we offer basic job searching and computer training classes with staff member, Kathy Sasso.

The library is the host for four book groups, a Mah Jongg group on Mondays, a senior group every Tuesday, the Salem Library Knitters gather on Thursday, a day when we also set out coffee and cookies for our patrons. In-between these regulars, thirty-one other groups meet at the library. Altogether the library hosted 415 meetings of community groups including Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Friends of Gardner Lake, the Salem Land Trust, tutors, condo associations and other groups. The Salem Library proctored 8 tests. The Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts and the entire second grade toured the library. A Daisy Troop helped to start a garden near the entrance to the library.

Our programs ran from cute – doll teas, fairy houses and fairy gardens to the gruesomely fun, when made-up zombie teens roamed the stacks. One of our big programs was the library's eighth birthday celebration when we stacked several programs on one day: Minor League pitcher and Salem resident, Sean Donatello talked baseball, New London's Flock Theater presented a shadow play on the Sunken House of Gardner Lake, and Eight Mile River Band returned to play to an adoring crowd. Our concert series included the contemporary classic *janus* Trio, electric violinist Caryn Lin, country rocker Becky Chace and the Sounding Brass, headed by Salem resident and conductor emeritus of the Coast Guard Band, Lew Buckley. Other popular programs were Sydney Sherman who connects with the paranormal, the summer Art Reception when we showcase local artists, State Archaeologist Nick Bellantoni, and Richard Wolak who talked about his experiences in Antarctica. We also continued the Poetry and Photography Contests for all ages, and the winter and Summer Reading Programs.

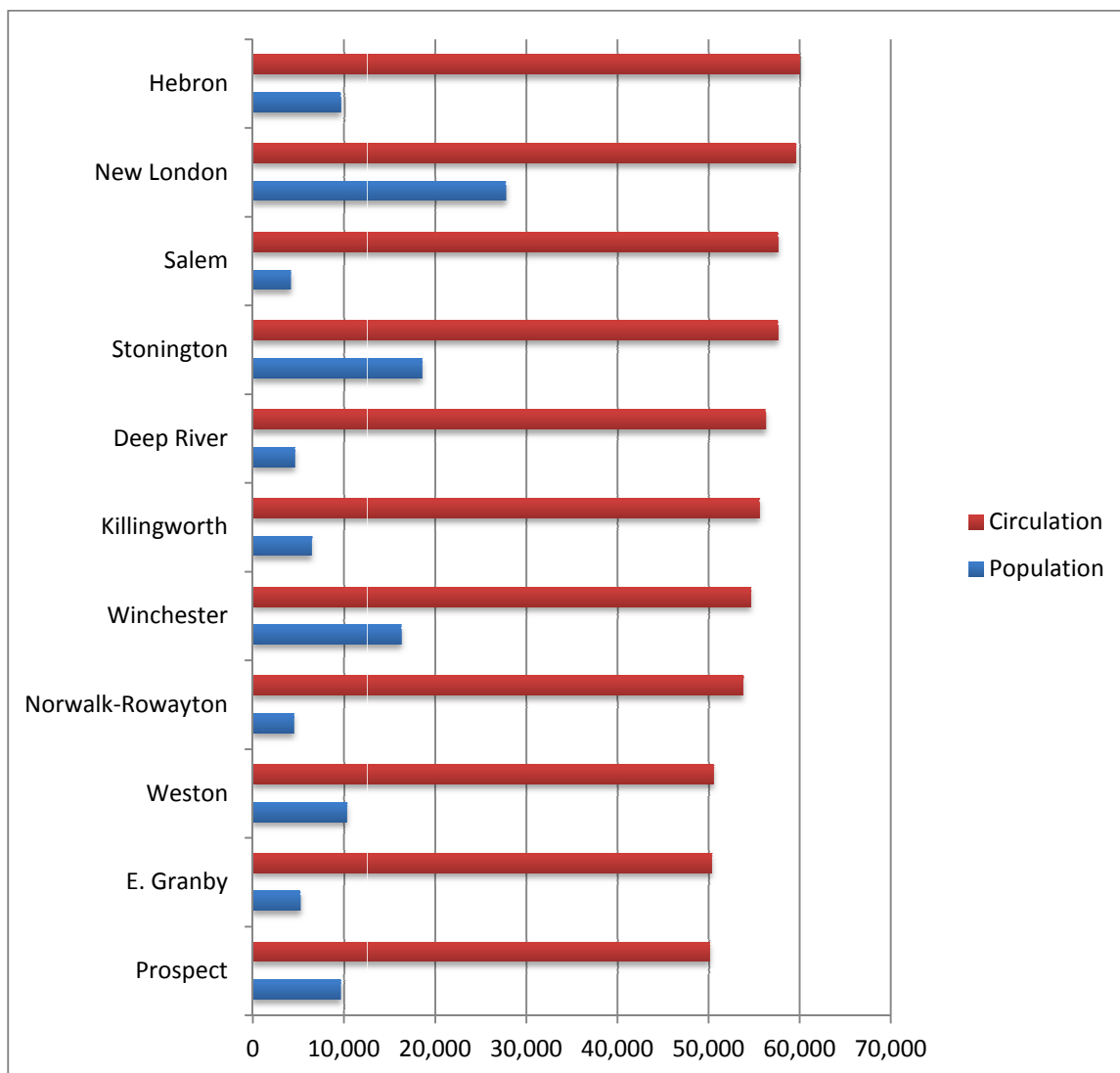
It is amazing how this small community supports the library. There were over 50 volunteers who gave more than 1300 hours of support to the library, 30 of those volunteers were teens, and

4 were Community Service volunteers. The Friends of Salem Library racked up an additional 2,000 hours of volunteer power for their fall book sale. The library also received numerous monetary donations. We are grateful for the support of volunteers, the many generous donors and the Friends of Salem Library.

Despite stormy weather throughout the year, which shut the library down for several days, the library circulation statistics were slightly higher in most categories over last year's figures. In comparing our statistics to other Connecticut libraries, we are proud to announce that Salem's circulation statistics are comparable to libraries much larger in size.

So despite bad weather and economic woes, the Salem Library continues to be a shared space, enjoyed by all ages. The Library is not just a collection of books to be borrowed and returned. It is a meeting place, a learning place, and a sharing place.

Circulation Statistics from 2013 Preliminary Statistical Profile of Connecticut Libraries



Population Served:

Salem:	4,151
Borah:	2,613
Total:	6,764

Circulation Statistics

Total number of items checked out or downloaded	58,639 <i>up by 1% over last year</i>
Adult Books & Magazines	14,084-up 2% over last year
Teen Books	4,401 – <i>up 9% over last year</i>
Children's books	15,696 – <i>down 3% from last year</i>
Audio-visual materials	22,283 – <i>about the same as last year</i>
Total E- Circulation	1,014 – <i>up 184%</i>

Other Statistics

Salem residents with library cards	3039- <i>up 10%</i>
Bozrah residents with library cards:	712
Number of people attending library programs	6204 - <i>Total Attendance up 21%</i>

The Library Collection

Adult books:13,630	Teen books:3,457
Children books:9,625	DVDs:3,971
Audio books:805	Music compact discs:1042
Periodicals*:52	Newspapers*:1

*Plus access to articles in magazines & newspapers on ICONN.org

Friends of Salem Library Executive Board

George Ziegra	President
Gloria Fogarty	Vice President
Martha Giegel	Secretary
Mary Cikatz	Treasurer

Financial Information

Operating Budget	
Collection	\$ 12,159
Equipment	\$ 4,235
Mileage/Conference/Dues	\$ 1,590
Other Expenses	\$ 2,035
Supplies	\$ 2,450
Bibliomation Network	\$ 4,290
Alarm Fee	\$ 500
Total Operating Budget	\$ 27,260
Salaries	\$ 95,144

Fixed Costs	
Heating-Oil Fuel	\$ 14,481
Electricity	\$ 12,678
Phone	\$ 2,077
Water quality - Culligan	\$ 1,260
Cleaning	\$ 4,200
FICA/Medicare	\$ 7,279
Insurance Buy Out	\$ 2,500
Pension	\$ 2,933
Interest Payment	\$ 25,000
Payment of Bond	\$100,000
Paper Products (Cleaning Supplies)	\$ 1,838
Insurance	\$ 8,400
Building Maintenance	\$ 3,150
Maintenance Agreement	\$ 7,500
Postage	\$ 578
Total Library Budget	\$316,277

Income given to the Town of Salem which was returned to the Library In its operating budget

Fines	\$ 3,651
Copier, Printer & Fax Fees	\$ 2,321
Connecticard - Reimbursement from the State, for allowing patrons from other towns to check out items from the Salem Library	\$ 1,934
State grant for being a library	\$ 2,407
Bozrah Payment for Library Use	\$ 7,440
Total	\$17,753

Friends of the Library Contribution to the Salem Library

Museum Passes	\$ 1,200
Summer Reading Programs	\$ 2,100
Story times	\$ 481
Programs	\$ 4,000
Collection	\$ 5,000
Teen Advisory Program	\$ 298
Total	\$13,079

from endowment fund held by The Community Foundation	
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Donations

Propbusters	\$ 300
Sharon Sanders	\$ 500
Moms Club	\$ 100
Shirley Diamond	\$ 195
Salem Library Knitters & Clamshell Quilt Guild	\$ 812
Venky Iyer	\$ 310
Ballestrini Child Care	\$ 50
90 books for Shirley Diamond's 90 birthday	\$ 491
Daryl Memoriam	\$ 250
Lauren Smolenski Memoriam	\$ 250
Servpro	\$ 50
Chelsea Groton	\$ 50
Salem Valley Ice Cream	\$ 200 gift certificates
Salem Prime Cuts	\$ 50
Yankee Nursery	\$ 25
Peggy Semmelrock	\$2,000
Gerald Daigle	\$ 50
Total Donations	\$5,658
Misc. – lost book payments, purchase of tote bags, flash drives, collection from donation box	\$ 948
Interest Income	\$ 940